

Message Text

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FOR: SECSTATE EA/PHL ONLY

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - JULY 15 - 21

I. PSYCHOLOGICAL

USIS AND EMBASSY REPORTS HAVE FULLY COVERED THE MEDIA PLAY ON THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEEK, VIZ, REACTION TO THE CONVICTION OF THE FILIPINO NURSES IN DETROIT. SUFFICE TO SAY THAT THE POST HAS BEEN PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY SEVERAL COLUMNS WHICH DARED TO SUGGEST THAT THE JURY TOOK ITS WORK SERIOUSLY, AND IF THEY WERE WRONG, THE REMEDY TO EFFECT THE CURE EXISTS IN THE US JUDICIAL SYSTEM. OF COURSE, OUR OLD FRIEND DOROY VALENCIA AND ERNESTO GRANADA WERE PREDICTABLY READY TO DEPICT THE WHOLE US SYSTEM AS CORRUPT AND IMMORAL. (FOR FULL ACCOUNT PRESS PLAY SEE MANILA 10932 AND 10984.)

II. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

A. HEGINBOTHAM INTERVIEW GETS GOOD PRESS PLAY - THE POST

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RELEASED THE LEAD STORY AND EXCERPTS FROM THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE IMV-PRODUCED DISCUSSION BETWEEN DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HEGINBOTHAM AND THE PHILIPPINE AND MALAYSIAN AMBASSADORS TO WASHINGTON. BOTH THE BULLETIN TODAY AND THE TIMES JOURNAL RAN THE LEAD AND PORTIONS OF THE EXCERPTS ON PAGE ONE, WHILE THE DAILY EXPRESS REWROTE THE ITEM FOR PAGE TWO PLAY. THE LEADING BUSINESS PUBLICATION, BUSINESS DAY, ALSO RAN AS LEAD STORY.

B. AMERICAN STUDIES SEMINAR - TWENTY FILIPINO SCHOLARS FROM EIGHT MAJOR UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING THOSE IN CEBU AND DAVAO AREA, GATHERED AT THE TJCC JULY 18 FOR A WEEKLONG SEMINAR ON NEW APPROACHES TO AMERICAN STUDIES. AFTER INITIAL FENCING BY PARTICIPANTS TO DETERMINE THAT THEIR ROLE WOULD BE TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART RATHER THAN TO MERELY SIT BACK AND ABSORB KNOWLEDGE FROM FOUR VISITING AMERICAN LECTURERS, THE SEMINAR SETTLED DOWN TO TRULY PRODUCTIVE BUSINESS. AS IT HAD DEVELOPED THROUGH MIDWEEK, A SIGNIFICANT EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ABOUT MUTUAL ACADEMIC PROBLEMS, PRIMARILY CENTERING AROUND THE CULTURAL CONCEPT OF COMPARATIVE STUDIES, WAS OCCURRING. SUBJECTS UNDERTAKEN WERE FOREIGN POLICY, POPULAR CULTURE, WORK AND ORAL HISTORY. THE AMERICAN SPECIALISTS ARE LED BY AMSPEC ALICE KESSLER HARRIS OF HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY. SHE WAS JOINED BY TWO JAPAN FULBRIGHTERS, RICHARD GID POWERS AND JOHN ZEUGNER, AND INDONESIA FULBRIGHTER RONALD GRELE.

C. VOLSPKRS ROBERT AND BARBARA EBERSOLE - VOLSPKRS ROBERT AND BARBARA EBERSOLE, FORMERLY OF USIS MANILA, COMPLETED THEIR 12-DAY LONG VISIT TO THE COUNTRY WITH FULL-HOUSE LECTURES IN CEBU AND DAVAO ON NEW TRENDS IN AMERICAN ART, TRENDS IN CRAFT DESIGN TECHNIQUE, ART IN THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN IN AMERICAN ART. THE EBERSOLES CONTINUED TO IMPRESS THEIR AUDIENCES WITH THE COMPREHENSIVENESS OF THEIR PRESENTATIONS AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN GIVE-AND-TAKE

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DISCUSSION. A PRE-DEPARTURE DINNER IN THEIR HONOR ATTRACTED TWO NATIONAL ARTISTS AND MOST OF THE LEADING FIGURES IN THE MANILA ART COMMUNITY. INTEREST WAS HIGH AT THIS DINNER, AS WELL AS IN CEBU AND DAVAO, FOR A RETURN TRIP OF LONGER DURATION BY THE EBERSOLES IN WHICH THEY WOULD GIVE WORKSHOPS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. IF SUCH A PROGRAM COULD BE ARRANGED, GIVEN THEIR LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIPS IN THE CULTURAL COMMUNITY AND THEIR ACCESS TO ARTISTS ON ALL LEVELS, THE EBERSOLES WOULD BE OUTSTANDING CHOICES.

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